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important change in life, which became dominant in the age of Ts'in Shihang-ti; namely, a Tartarized China, the traditional Confucian views of life having been supplanted by Tartar, Scythian, Hunnic or Turkish elements—elements that, whatever name we may give them, had grown out of the national life of central Asiatic foreigners, and now began to disturb the quiet development of the nation whose civil code was the *Chóu-li*, and whose model gentleman had been Confucius." Many changes combined to undermine "that authority of Confucian teaching, which, after all, must be considered as the cement, so to speak, that had so far prevented the utter collapse of the Chóu dynasty." (p. 305.) Yet, as Hirth so excellently remarks, nowhere did the application of scholarship to the affairs of government bear so much practical fruit as in China.

Scattered throughout the book are excellent sections on the culture of the different periods, the geography of China, the origin of the mariner's compass, a discussion of the theories of land holding. There is a brief introduction on the spelling and pronunciation of Chinese words, an abundance of illustrative material from sources, an appendix of chronological tables, a sketch map of China during the Chóu dynasty, and a very complete index.

The arrangement and order might occasionally be criticised, and a separate chapter on the sources would have saved some confusion. Moreover, there are frequent and gross lapses in English grammar, in the first half of the book particularly, and the use of colloquialisms is an unfortunate reminder of the lecture origin of the book. Such a sentence as "The female clearly takes a back seat in nature" (p. 59) is unpardonable. But taken as a whole, Professor Hirth, in giving us this "text book for students and work of reference for general readers," has performed a difficult task remarkably well.

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**Huntington, Ellsworth.** *The Pulse of Asia.* Pp. xix, 415. Price, \$3.50.  
Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co.

This is a book for the economist, the geographer and the historian, who is too often but a cataloguer of symptoms.

The economic interpretation of history has made great strides of late years and now a great explorer leaves his camels in the midst of the world's greatest desert to call our attention to the fact that probably the greatest of all dynamos back of historic change during the period of the Christian Era has been climatic variation, something of which we have of late only begun to realize the existence, and concerning which our knowledge is yet in its dawn. It is certainly a field well worth the very careful study of individual explorers and especially of such institutions as the Carnegie Institution, and governments. With a combination of a wide study of documents and much original information, gathered by years of journeyings in unexplored Asia, Dr. Huntington opens up a very fascinating field.

He gives much concrete evidence to prove the great changes that

have occurred throughout Asia and presumably throughout the world in historic time and then in the following words shows how all civilization has been overturned by it:—

"If the rainfall (of then populous central Asia) fell from twenty inches to ten, the number of sheep would decrease from sixty to one. Manifestly, if such a change took place in the course of a few hundred years, most of the inhabitants would be obliged to migrate. As the nomads pressed outward from the drier central regions of Asia, we can imagine how they were obliged to fight with the neighboring tribes whom they tried to dispossess. The old inhabitants and the newcomers could not all live together; new migrations would be a necessity; and confusion would spread in every direction. Meanwhile, Europe, after its long period of blighting cold, was becoming warm and habitable, and the migrants pressed into it, horde after horde. No one tribe could stay long in its chosen abiding place, for new bands of restless nomads pressed upon it. Rome fell before the wanderers. Nothing could stay their progress until the turn of the tide.

"Perchance, though this is only vague conjecture, the legends of King Arthur and his knights bear a hint of what might have occurred all over Central Europe if it had not been for the influx of barbarians. England, in its remote corner of Europe, far from the dry plains of Asia, responded at first to the influence of improved climatic conditions, until it, too, was reached by the migrating hordes of invaders."

We are all accustomed to hearing and accepting without remark the statement that man is the result of his environment. Dr. Huntington discusses in a very specific way how certain types of environment produce a man of certain qualities other than physical.

Particularly interesting, because it suggests a possible key to the future, is the theory that man can reach efficient civilization only in a certain type of climate, and further that due to climatic change, the places having that climate have changed latitude and with these changes the course of empire has moved not east and west, but north and south.

"To-day the strongest nations of the world live where the climatic conditions are most propitious. Japan and north China in Asia; Russia, Austria, Germany, France and England in Europe, and the United States and Canada in America, all occupy regions where the climate is of the kind which we have defined as most favorable to the progress of mankind. Much as these nations differ in race, in ideals, and in type of civilization, they all agree in possessing a high degree of will-power and energy, and a capacity for making progress and for dominating other races. Throughout the course of history, similar conditions of climate seem to have prevailed wherever a nation has displayed these qualities. With every throb of the climatic pulse which we have felt in Central Asia, the centre of civilization has moved this way or that. Each throb has sent pain and decay to the lands whose day was done, life and vigor to those whose day was yet to be."

J. RUSSELL SMITH.

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